# MODERN TIMES

New Haven 20¢

Vol. IV, No. 19 "What you do is news!" Call 562-2510 March 1 - 15, 1974


# Workers Expect Long Strike at Simkins

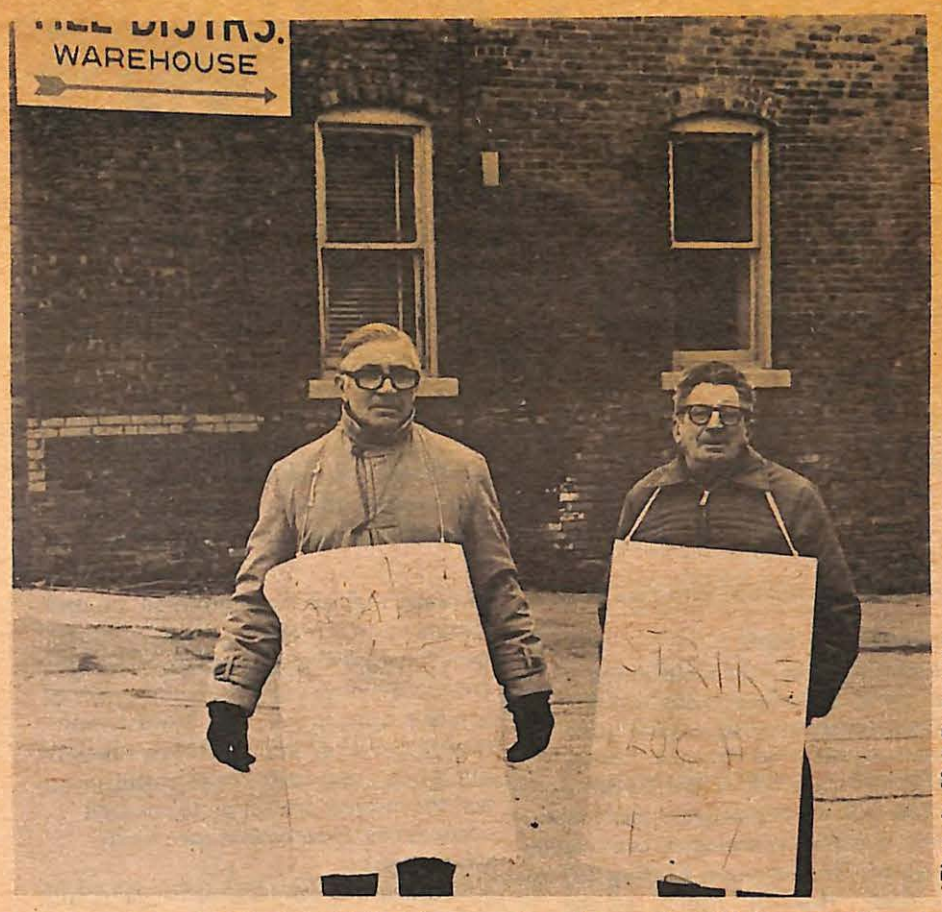



Photo by Matt Borenstein

**Members of Local 457 of the United Paperworkers International Union on strike at Simkins Industries. William Giovanni has worked there for 33 years and Joseph Genicola for 25 years.**

**by Matt Borenstein**
*Modern Times Staff*

After 18 years without a major strike, workers at Simkins Industries, 259 East St. in New Haven are on the picket line following the expiration of a three year contract.

The workers are members of Local 457 of the United Paper International Union (Paper Workers). Simkins produces paperboard and cartons and runs a 24 hour operation. It is the third owner the workers remember (it used to be New Haven Board and Carton).

Negotiations broke down at the expiration of the contract after seven meetings and the help of state and federal mediators. According to Nicholas Grasso, vice president of Local 457, the major issues in the strike are wage adjustments, fringe benefits and contract language. At the point of the breakdown in negotiations, contract language was the major issue. The company offer was not too far off on wages.

Control over transfers within the plant and voluntary overtime are the two main contract changes Local 457 is looking for. Simkins wants to institute a fourth crew to work straight time to fill in for days off and short shifts. According to Grasso, this would eliminate time and one half for current workers who usually fill those slots (a loss for some workers of up to $200 a month).

**Block Long Machine**

The main equipment in the plant is a blo block long paper machine which needs about about 15 workers for operation.

The plant usually has two such machines in operation, but a month ago, one was shut down causing the layoff of many of the junior employees.

**Inflation**

Although contract language is an important issue, many workers on the picket line are concerned about inflation especially after a three year contract. "Manufacturers can pass on their costs — who do we pass them on to?" The inflation for last year was 8.8% and corporate profits rose 27%.

Wage and benefit settlements for all U.S. workers have declined in recent years — there was a 9.1% increase in 1970, 8.8% gain in 1971, 7.4% in 1972 and 5.5% in 1973.

**Florida Vacation**

At the time of this interview, no new meetings with the company have been scheduled. Simkins owner has just left for a Florida vacation, and the workers are prepared for a long strike. Most of the workers on the picket line and in the strike headquarters have over 20 years service with the company.

# Make the Rich Pay Their Fair Share of Taxes!

## AIM Proposal #4

### Tax Stocks & Bonds
### Tax Yale

The worst-kept secret in the United States today is the crushing and unequal burden of *taxes* paid by the working class. It is something everyone knows about, but no one seems ready to change. It is an outrage, but no one is outraged by it. Most working people figure there's nothing they can do about it anyway, so they don't bother to try. "You can't fight city hall," they say. "That's the way it'll always be."

AIM disagrees. We believe that the rich CAN be made to pay their fair share of taxes. We are convinced that city, state and Federal services could be vastly improved WITHOUT any increase in taxes for poor and working people. We think that certain unfair taxes could even be ROLLED BACK substantially, if the wealthy were taxed equally.

We the working people, make up the majority of this city, this state and this country. Yet year after year, we remain over-taxed, under-paid, and practically unrepresented in any legislative bodies. And the trend is certainly getting worse. Forty years ago, over two-thirds of all Federal taxes were paid by the corporations directly. Today the figure is down to about a quarter and the other three-quarters are paid by individuals. Here in Connecticut, the tax on dividends, which affects mainly the wealthy, was recently dropped by the state legislature.

There's no reason at all why this situation must continue. By joining together, across our racial and ethnic differences, we can demand and win sweeping changes in the tax system. As a first step, AIM proposes a complete overhaul of the New Haven city property tax. Here are the changes we envision:

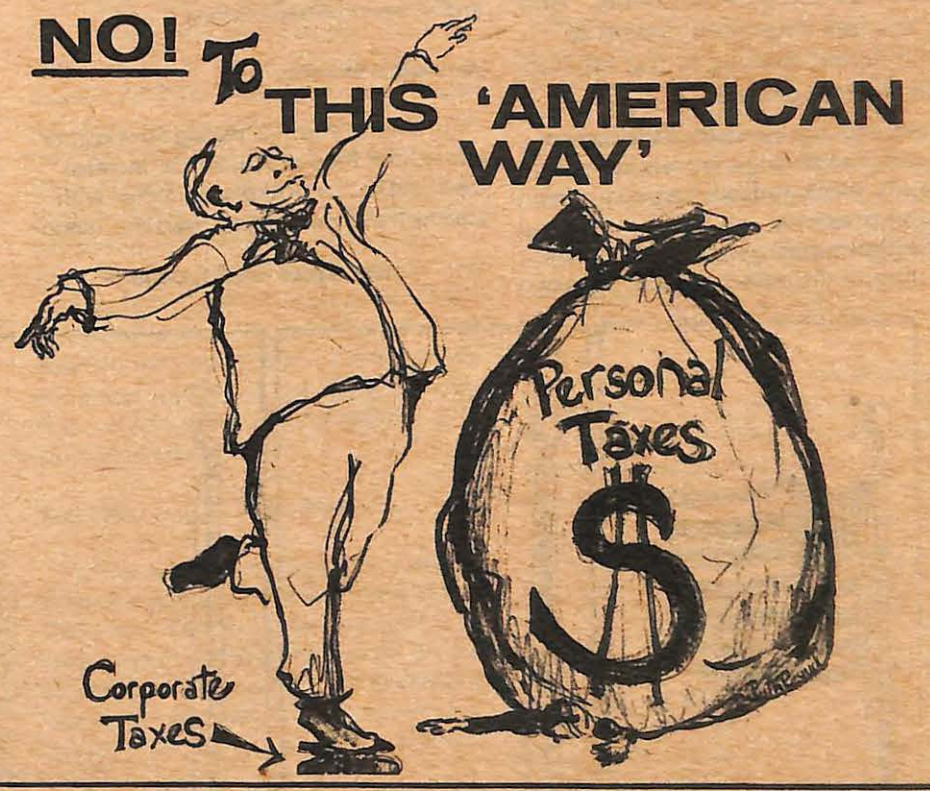
**Tax Stocks and Bonds Along with Real Property.** In the country as a whole, the richest 1% of the people own 70% of the stock. Yet they pay no local tax on this property. In Connecticut, the single family homeowner pays nearly three quarters of all local property taxes. And tenants don't get off the hook either, since most landlords add taxes on to rents. By taxing stocks and bonds, we could reverse this situation almost overnight.

**Make the Property Tax Progressive.** Those with small amounts of property should not be taxed at the same rate as those with large amounts. We propose a sliding scale for property taxes. Property valued at less than $50,000 would be taxed at a lower-than-average mill rate; while that worth more than $50,000 would be taxed at a higher rate.

**Taxation on a State-Wide Basis.** There is no reason why suburbanites should pay lower taxes than city-dwellers. We propose that the state tax all residents according to the same schedule, regardless of where they live. The state could then distribute the monies to each town according to its population. This system would be much fairer than the present one.

**Tax Yale and Other "Non-Profit" Institutions.** The City has been fooling around with this issue long enough. It's time we demanded the necessary changes in Hartford which would allow us to collect taxes on all of Yale's property. Is it right to let the city's wealthiest institution become its poorest relation at tax time?

These four proposals would give the rich a chance to share our local tax burdens. Of course, they would not affect state and Federal taxes. But we feel that a movement to equalize city taxes would be a good start. Such a movement would then be in a position to deal with other taxes as well.




## Inside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# Women Face Special on the Job Health Hazards

**by Connecticut Occupational Safety and Health**
*Special to Modern Times*

Women, who now make up over 40% of the work force, face many severe occupational health and safety problems. There are two ways in which women are subjected to particular hazards that men do not face to the same extent or at all.

The health risks women suffer are increased by the fact that women often do two jobs, work outside the home, and unpaid housekeeping and child care. This makes women more vulnerable to unhealthy work conditions.

First, women tend to work in particular kinds of jobs and are therefore subjected to hazards associated with these particular industries. Secondly, due to the biological fact that women bear children, they and their children may be under special risk from unhealthy work conditions, especially during pregnancy.

Women comprise almost the entire work force in certain industries: for example women are 98% of all nurses, 97% of all secretaries, 75% of workers in the sewing trades, and 72% of laundry and dry cleaning operatives. Within other industries, women are clustered in certain jobs, especially those which require fine detail work, such as assembly line jobs in the electronics industry.

In New Haven, this pattern seems to prevail. There is some evidence that many women here work in electronics, garment-making and textiles, as well as the more service-oriented occupations such as teaching, hospital work, waitressing and clerical work.

**Health Hazards Vary**

The specific hazards and health problems to which women are exposed in these sex-typed occupations vary tremendously. Office workers often develop back strain, muscle fatigue, and eye and ear strain, as a result of sitting for long periods in badly designed chairs over poorly lit desks in crowded, noisy offices. Clerical workers are now being exposed to hazards resulting from technological innovation. Many of the new solvents for performing office tasks and chemicals used in a variety of duplicating machines are toxic and can cause visual disturbances, mental confusion, fatigue, and sometimes nausea and vomiting, especially when used without adequate ventilation.

Waitresses frequently suffer from varicose veins because they have to stand all day. This problem is shared by women in other occupations which require long periods of standing, such as bank clerks and retail salespeople. Garment workers have problems similar to both office and waitressing work. They sit or stand continuously, doing repetitive tasks in a very noisy environment.

Among the major safety hazards in both laundries and textile mills are unguarded moving parts in large machines, In laundries and kitchens, wet slippery floors cause falls. Burns, and dizziness and fatigue caused by excessive exposure to heat are also problems in these industries.

Many women do assembly line work, which can lead to heart stress, as well as mental stress. Particularly in women, the reactions of alienation and boredom are taken as signs of poor mental health. They are rarely recognized as rational reactions to *unsatisfactory working conditions*, which cause twice as many women as men to be discontented with their work.

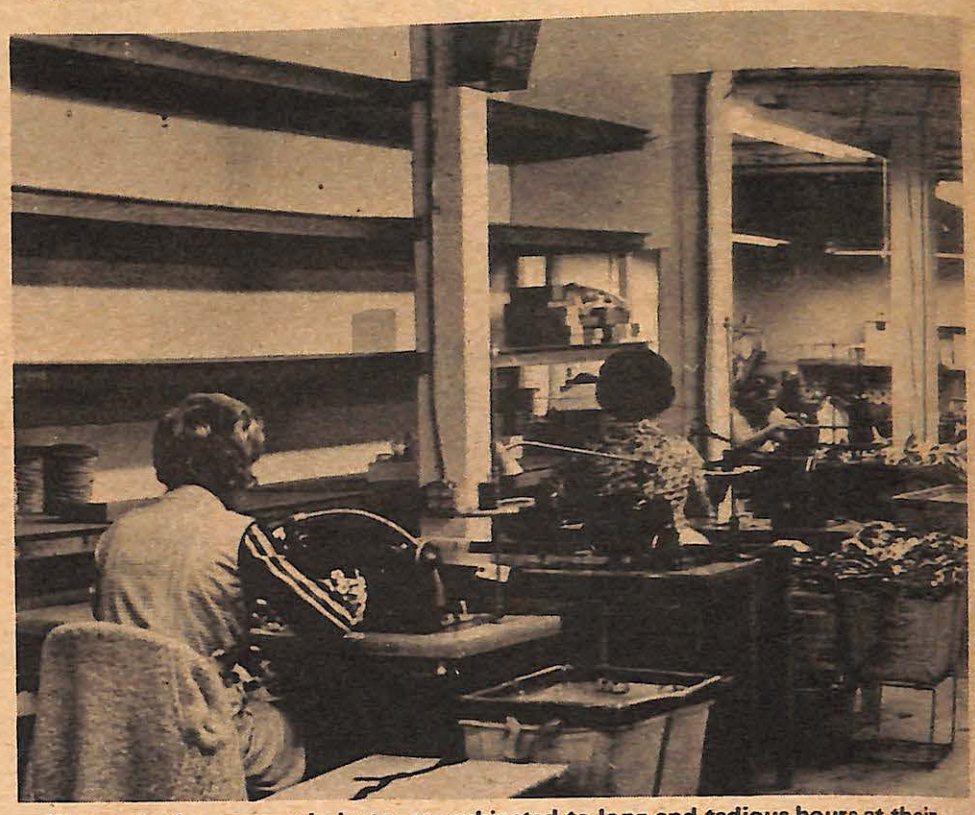


Photo by Nick Heyer

**Women in the garment industry are subjected to long and tedious hours at their machines, which make them particularly susceptible to back aches and related ailments.**

**Employers Care Little**

Employers pay little attention to the effects that workplace environments might have on the gynecological health of women, except when they use these effects as an excuse not to hire women at all. The U.S. medical establishment tends to dismiss many gynecological complaints, such as menstrual distress, as being "all in your head." However, medical research *conducted in other countries, especially* in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, indicates that working conditions do contribute to menstrual problems and other gynecologic disorders, such as injuries to the reproductive organs. Working women can help protect their own health by obtaining annual gynecological examinations, but it is the responsibility of employers and the medical profession to research occupational hazards that specifically affect women.

Pregnant women face special dangers in their workplace, both to themselves and

*see* **Women's Health & Safety**, page 5

# Brass Tacks
## Monopolies Gobble Profits

**by Mike F. Holodnak**

When free enterprise existed, anyone who could come up with a service or a "better mouse trap", or anything that could fulfill people's needs, would always be assured of customers and a decent living. And so, the free enterprise system to some extent worked to the satisfaction of most people.

But, with the inevitable development of modern technology, bigness became a necessity which gradually began to wipe out free enterprise.

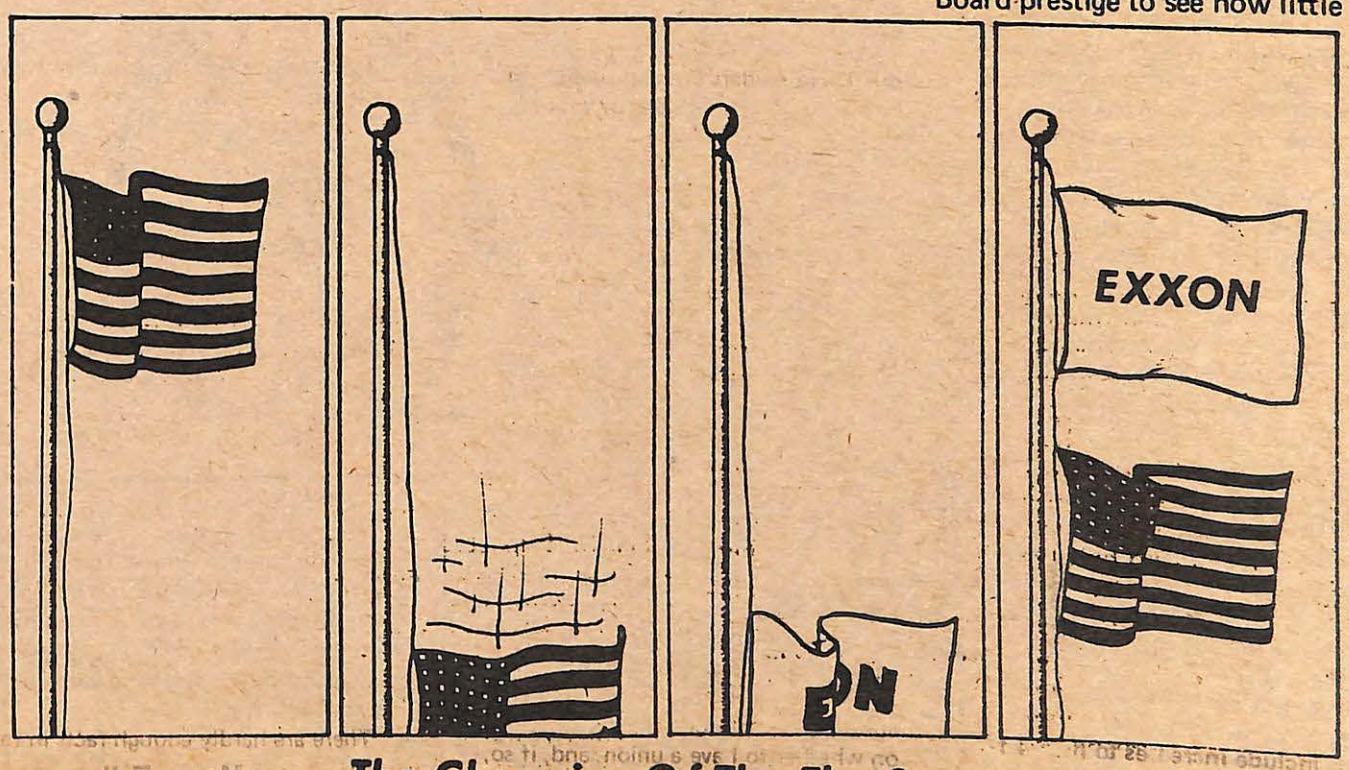
As bigness grew to monopolize more and more of the market place, it gradually provided shoddier products and poorer services to its captive customers.

Now these monopolies are so huge and monstrous, with an appetite so voracious, that they must gobble up profits by the bank-vault loads just to stay alive. To satisfy this insatiable appetite, they have to resort to tactics that at best are irrational, and at worst outright insane.

**Backwards Morality**

In a hungry world, the big farm corporations limit food production to increase food profits. In workplaces riddled with speedups and compulsory overtime, mono-

*see* **Brass Tacks**, *page 5*




***The Changing Of The Flag?***

Graphic by Larry Knapp

# If You Can't Strike, You Can't Bargain

**By Stan Heller**
*from the West Haven Federation of Teachers' newsletter:* **Federation Focus**

Boards of Education act remarkably like private employers when it comes time to negotiate. They are in league with one political faction or another and are terribly afraid of opposition charges of "giving the town away" to the teachers. Like a private employer they keep wage settlements to a minimum even when their operation funds are plentiful. Over the years it has become a matter of Board prestige to see how little each can grant to its teaching staff.

Boards are no more reasonable on non-monetary issues. Their advisors, the administrators, are notoriously reluctant to share any powers with their "colleagues" on the teaching staff. They bamboozle Boards into believing that grants of rights or protections to teachers are raids on the sacred quarry of "management rights and preogatives."

**Teacher Power**

So collective bargaining for teachers as for all other workers is successful only when teachers have the power to force concessions. And like it or not, our only power stems from our ability to withhold our labor--to strike. This is not to say that teachers must frequently go on strike, but it means that no Board of Education will agree to decent contract improvements unless it feels teachers are capable of a concerted refusal to work.

Some question the strike tactic as unprofessional. "It hurts the children." But it need not. The Board can simply extend the school year to make up the missed days. This was a prime demand during our 1970 strike. In any event, **the goals of teacher unionism and the goals of teacher strikes are better working conditions for the students.** The gains made in lower class size, better materials and improved quality of instruction far outweigh the purely temporary losses children suffer during strikes.

Everyone agrees strikes are unwanted. Yet sometimes they are a necessary means for teachers to receive just compensation and professional rights and for students to be guaranteed a good education.

# Farm Workers' Efforts Continue in N.H. Area

**by John Flannelly**
*Modern Times Staff*

"The boycott is the way we take our cause to the public. For surely if we cannot find justice in the courts of rural California, we will find support with our brothers and sisters throughout the nation."

-Cesar Chavez

The struggle of the United Farm Workers has been going on for a long time now. But the farm workers have learned that a long-haul campaign for the establishment of just working conditions and a just wage is their only option. They know that the growers are hard-nosed strategists whose ultimate objective is to out-wait the strikers, convinced of the invincibility of corporate clout. And that is where it stands: the waiting game.

The frustrations of living from hand-to-mouth, of trying to sustain a strike on empty stomachs is at the center of the experience of trying to hold a union together against stacked odds. The problem is that people forget, forget too easily the dimensions of the real cost of this struggle. The farm workers are hungry, they need food, they need money, they need support.

**New Boycott Drive**

Last month witnessed the arrival of some new organizers to the New Haven area. Their purpose is to gear up enthusiasm for the spring boycott (harvest time for the grapes in California), and to bring people together into boycott committees to better promote picketing efforts. Nationally the big two targets, as you might know, are Safeway on the West Coast and A & P on the East. Safeway has a sweetheart arrangement with the Teamsters and has been steadfast in its resistance to cooperation with the UFW. A & P is the biggest chain in the East, with its largest concentration of stores in the New York City area. Locally there are few A & P's - the ones around are being regularly picketed however (for example, the one in East Haven). It's stores like Food Mart and the independents like Pegnataro's that will constitute the focus of the city-wide campaign.

For the fact of the matter is that these stores have been taking the UFW supporters for a ride. They're picketed. In response they promise not to sell non—UFW grapes and lettuce; the picket is called off, they then go back to selling the stuff.

Symbolic efforts are not long lasting, they're not having the desired effect. It's clear that the situation calls for massive support. What is needed is vigilant picketing, constant store checks, and more vigilant picketing. Otherwise, the boycott is going to fail, the UFW will be broken, and the cause of farm workers set back twenty years. But that takes people! So if you're interested in getting into the thick of it, of helping out with either money or time, call Martha Martinez at 288-4905 about joining a boycott committee. Viva la Huelga!

# Wire Strike Wraps Up Good Gains

**by Modern Times Staff**

It took a six-week, well-organized strike, but Machinists' Local 1396 has won a good contract from the Atlantic Wire Co., in Branford. (We reported on the strike in the last issue of MT.)

Some of the important parts of the new contract are as follows: the contract is for two years (management wanted three); over that period, wages will increase 8% the first year and 7½% the second; each year the pension payments will go up $1/month for each year of service; and life insurance, sickness and accident benefits, and medical benefits will all improve. Altogether, the increased wages and benefits will cost the Company almost $1/hour for each worker.

In the area of contract-language, some of the union's victories include voluntary overtime, restrictions on job transfers done for management's convenience, a 15% mark-up for people who have too low a rate on a piece-work job, and a provision for speeding up the grievance procedure (if management fails to decide a third-step grievance in seven days, they forfeit the grievance and must pay).

**Fired Workers Re-hired**

The only thing which the union wanted but failed to get was a full union shop (though they are protected against the Company's expansion to a neighboring building). Management did agree, however, to re-hire the three people who were fired after the Company accused them of violence on the picket lines (members of the union had voted unanimously to refuse to return to work unless the three were re-hired).

The strike was very bitter due to the high-handed approach which the management at Atlantic Wire adopted towards union-members' grievances and demands. Nonetheless, with the support of other unions, the Machinists won. International Representative, Warren Hoffman, said that the contract was a step forward. It's a good contract, he said, "if times don't get out of hand. Or," he corrected himself, "more out of hand than they are now."

Photo by Nick Heyer

**The front page article about the Atlantic Wire strike in the last issue of *Modern Times* went to press just as the strike was settled. Now Machinists' Local 1396 has won a good contract after a hard struggle. The gains include increases to help offset inflationary pressures and improvements in fringe benefits as well.**

# Money Talks
# How Are The Unions?

**by Rick Wolff**
*Modern Times Staff*

What can we say about the overall shape of unions in the U.S. today? Are they growing or shrinking? Are they strengthening or weakening?

How does the U.S. union movement stack up against those in Europe? To only begin to answer these questions is the purpose of this brief "State of the Unions" report.

We must start with some hard facts. In 1973, just under 22 million Americans paid dues to labor unions and employee associations that do what unions do. But over 61 million working Americans do not belong to any union or association. Back in 1945, the percentage of U.S. workers in unions was 35.5; in 1972, the percentage was down to 26.7 (these numbers exclude farm workers). From 1970 through 1972, there was an actual drop in union membership among employees of private firms amounting to 93,000. But, during the same years, there was a rise of government workers joining unions equal to 143,000.

The table on this page tells the story of unionization, industry by industry. **Modern Times** readers can and should consider how far unionization has progressed in their own industries.

**Too Many .....Too Small.....**

If the slogan is true that "In unity there is strength; in division there lies weakness," then the unions in the U.S. have a second big problem besides the mass of non-unionized workers in this country. The second problem is, in the words of one union activist, "too many, too small unions."

Again, consider a few numbers. There are 113 separate, independent unions in the AFL-CIO, plus dozens of unions and employee associations outside the AFL-CIO. When it comes to organizing the unorganized, there is much competition among unions. In 1972, the National Labor Relations Board supervised about 4800 elections where workers voted on whether to have a union, and, if so, which one. Of the 300,000 workers participating, more than half were choosing between two or more unions.

Many giant corporations own factories and offices doing many different kinds of business. So they bargain with many different unions. Unless the unions act in a united way, the corporation can play off one union against another. This has often happened. There is now some change in this area as the AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Department (IUD) is busily organizing "coordinated bargaining committees" so that unions can together confront their common corporation owner.

**Very Few Unions in Some Countries**

Some union leaders have spoken out strongly about the "excessive" numbers of separate unions. Jerry Wurf, a vice-president of the AFL-CIO and head of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) advocates merging all the unions so that eventually we have "as few as 20 or 30 large unions." He points approvingly to West Germany, Austria, and Holland, each of whom have 16 unions for all their workers.

How about the comparison between the strength of U.S. and European unions? The following list shows the percentages of workers paying dues to unions in each country:

| | |
|---|---|
| United States | 27 |
| Italy | 33 |
| W. Germany | 38 |
| Holland | 41 |
| Ireland | 43 |
| England | 48 |
| Denmark | 58 |
| Austria | 65 |
| Norway | 65 |
| Sweden | 80 |

The one major-European country missing from this list is really an exception that proves the rule. France has only 20% of its workforce in unions, but a majority of French workers participate regularly in union activities of all kinds.

There are hardly enough facts in this

*see* **Money Talks**, *page 7*

Volume IV, Number 19
Circulation 4000

**MODERN TIMES** welcomes all comments and letters to the editors.

MODERN TIMES

Editorial Office: 441 Chapel Street
562-2510

**MODERN TIMES** is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on **MODERN TIMES** is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions from the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

**MODERN TIMES** is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get this kind of news from profit-making commercial papers. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working men and women are told by them instead of their bosses. There is no place else where the problems of employment and education, and housing and health care are told by the people who have to live with them.

This is the richest country in the world. Yet most of the wealth is used only by a few. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. There would be no need to strike for paltry raises, waste our resources and labor on missiles and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need, not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the vested interests that run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care, and decent jobs.

**STAFF: David Adams, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Ed Brueler, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Andy Esposito, John Flannelly, Sam Goodwin, Stanley Heller, Liz Henderson, Nick Heyer, Eileen Hoffman, Lynne Karsten, Karl Lechow, Alice Mick, Steve Mick, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Pat Sandacata, Bob Sherry, Dave Spinner, Ken Stokes, Henry Tamarin, Richard Winfield, Karen Wolff, Rick Wolff, Lea Nordlicht.**

# Editorial

# Cut Taxes by 30 Mils !

The American Independent Movement's (AIM) proposals for tax reform in New Haven could save city residents up to 30 mills in property taxes.

What AIM proposes is a total revision of the tax structure so that we will not be forced to accept high taxes – low service budgets year after year. First of all, a great deal of property is held by wealthy individuals and corporations in Connecticut in the form of stocks and bonds. This **property** should be taxed in the same way as real estate or automobiles.

The AIM plan to tax common stocks and bonds in the same manner as real property could yield the state an additional 260 million dollars in tax revenue. If that was apportioned on the basis of population New Haven residents would see their mill rate plummet with plenty of money for additional services.

There's no mystery involved here. It's just a matter of taxing the money where it is instead of where it isn't. Professor Lester Snyder in the University of Connecticut Law Review compiled some startling statistics about wealth in the United States in an article on taxing intangible property. For example, "publicly held corporate stock now accounts for at least one-fourth of the nation's wealth and more than seventy per cent of that stock is held by the wealthiest one per cent of the population." Furthermore, the value of those stocks is increasing twice as fast as the value of real estate in the country. This stock is currently *not* taxable as property.

It's no wonder that a recent study of Hartford area real estate investors showed that half of them wanted to invest their money in something other than real estate. For the rest of us though it's a different story. In 1967, seventy percent of the nation's **real estate** wealth was held by individuals with a gross income of less than $60,000. In Connecticut, it was the single family home owner who paid over 73% of all property tax, although there is almost six times as much intangible property as there is real estate.

# Write On

### A Reader of *Modern Times* Reports from Mexico

To the Editors:

We occasionally hear about guerrilla uprisings, in the North especially, although never in the newspapers. Apparently in the North there is a lot of resentment over the lagging and unfair land reform. A few weeks ago some guerrillas, with the help of about all of the peasants in the area, broke into an army garrison and stole a lot of guns and ammunition. The governor of the state made a very defensive speech on the tube about how there were no longer any hacendados or big landowners in the state, but if some small farmers had become very prosperous, we shouldn't be envious of their success.

But it's really very difficult to know exactly what is going on in different parts of Mexico, the only way people ever hear about such things is by word of mouth. I learned that last week in Puebla the military put down a big demonstration by labor unions called in behalf of a communist leader who has been in jail a long time and for reasons about which I don't know. It's all very mysterious, some people tell you that there is a lot of independent unrest going on and others say that it's very scattered and infrequent.

It's good to know that this kind of information gap doesn't occur in the USA, at least as far as **Modern Times** is concerned.

Melissa Mackey
Cholula, Mexico

### ...And Friends in Pittsburg Offer Encouragement

Dear People,

We would like to drop you a note of appreciation although we are not renewing our sub. I haven't lived in Connecticut since '67 and we are very permanent and dug in in our neighborhood at Pittsburg.

We do appreciate the fine job **Modern Times** is doing reporting the people's news. Wish we had something like it here.

Incidentally, I have a substantial (but not complete) file of **Modern Times** and **AIM Newsletters.** If your files are not complete, or anyone there has a use for them, I'll gladly bundle up any part or the whole lot and sent it.

Love,
Jon & Mary Robinson
Pittsburg, Pa.

East Rock Neighborhood Association presents a living room concert series to benefit the East Rock Park Summer Program in College Woods Park. The next concert features:

Abigail B. Endicott, soprano
Susan Bingham, piano

Thursday, March 7, 1974 at 8 pm
277 Willow Street, New Haven

Refreshments - All Welcome
small contribution appreciated

# Open Line

# The Solzhenitsyn Affair

**by John Flannelly**
*Modern Times Staff*

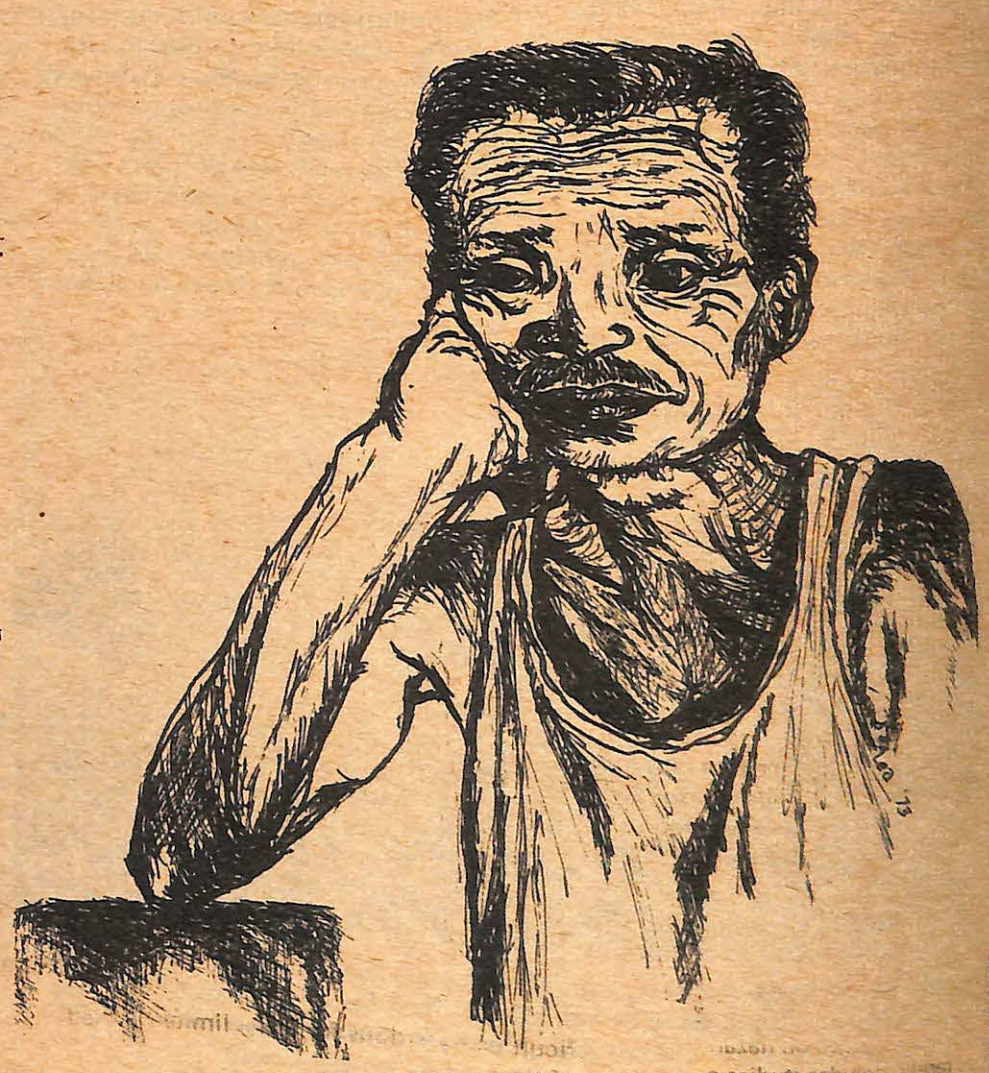
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn is a brave man. The Soviet system is corrupt. These are the surface conclusions that are forced upon us by Solzhenitsyn's expulsion from the Soviet Union. But there are deeper meanings. The question is not so much that dissent is tolerated in the West, because it really isn't (the methods of repression are *simply less obvious and more devious).* The question is that governments, by and large, are not formed in the interest of the governed. For if they were, criticism would not only be tolerated, but would be valued as a necessary element of the governing process.

Power is conceived as an instrument for the granting of privilege, and for the self-perpetuation of special interests. When power is conceived in such a way, it cannot abide diversity of opinion. It is blind to everything but its own authority. True democracy requires, aside from economic equality, spiritual equality, a belief in the absolute necessity of the right to be heard, of the right of people to participate in the formation of the conscience of the state. In that sense, Solzhenitsyn's struggle is our struggle, his defeat is a defeat for the progressive forces of the international community.

**Friendship or Collusion**

It is no accident that Brezhnev and Nixon seem to have no trouble in finding things to talk about. It would appear that each harbors similar attitudes towards the exercise of power. Neither can accept the legitimacy of the governed passing *judgment upon their actions, and neither* can long tolerate the stirrings of dissenters, be they within government or without. And finally, they both implicitly or explicitly espouse the philosophy and encourage the mentality of "Love it or Leave it!"

So before Americans extol the virtue of this system, as compared to the Soviet system, they might do well to remember that there are 300,000 exiled Americans barred from returning to their land of birth because of Nixon's steadfast refusal to grant amnesty. Their crime being strikingly similar to Solzhenitsyn's, speaking against and actively resisting policies of barbarism, in their case, the barbarism of an aggressively insane war. There ain't no mercy in the Soviet Union, but there ain't no mercy in this land either!



Lea Nordlicht

World Affairs

# British Workers Fight for Survival

by Laurie Nussdorfer
*Modern Times Staff*
(Ms. Nussdorfer is a former editor *Modern Times* who is now studying economic history in England).

To Americans fed up with rising prices and lying politicians, Britain is a welcome diversion. "No matter how bad things are here," things are worse over there."

In fact of course people over here adjust - all too easily perhaps - to inconvenience. "We saw worse in the war," says one old lady to another. A radio announcer comments cheerfully that train schedules are "normal for the crisis." It is hard to tell that almost a million people are unemployed each day.

What exactly does the miners' strike and the general election mean in this context of calm? No one should get the idea that basic principles are not at stake. The miners want more money. The government wants to preserve its policy of protecting profits and limiting wages.

**Who Pays - Business or Workers?**

The question they divide over is the fundamental one - who will pay for Britain's economic problems. The government says, "People who work for wages." The miners say "Not us." What the rest of the country will say is yet unclear.

What is the issue underlying Britain's economic crisis? It is primarily that she has lost her edge in the world's economic competition. Someone once remarked, "Sure America has a future. Take a look at Great Britain."

In December Britain's monthly balance of imports and exports was announced - it was the worst ever. At the same time costs of imports with higher oil prices were expected to rise ever more steeply. The anticipated outflow of gold to pay for these imports would so reduce the supplies backing its currency that Britain would have to borrow from the international banks to support the pound. To add to this uncomfortable situation the coal miners were seeking a wage increase above the government limit of 13% and had called a ban on overtime work to win it. Just how does Britain plan to manage its economy?

**Showdown Inevitable**

In the face of this set of problems the conservative government had two alternatives. They could have given the miners what they wanted and jiggled definitions around so that their limits were not technically reached. Then things would have muddled along - getting slowly, if not dramatically, worse. Or they could have decided that as a matter of principle the workers would have to be shown who was boss; and in addition would have to take a cut in their real wages "in the national interest."

The Heath government plumped for the latter course and in early December made a set of crucial decisions. First, it would not negotiate with the miners. Second, the Prices and Incomes Policy - now in Phase 3 - was no longer an adequate control mechanism. Therefore, the government declared a State of Emergency to gain more direct control over all aspects of political, economic and social life. It then decreed a three day week.

How could cutting back production by two fifths help Britain's economic position - one might wonder? There were two ways. First, the savings on energy consumption could permit coal to be stockpiled in the event of a full miners' strike and at the same time decrease the requirements of imported oil. Second - a more long term but also more significant objective - a three day week meant an automatic wage cut and getting people accustomed to lay-offs and increased unemployment. The further decision to reduce public spending by about three billion dollars would intensify these effects.

**Miners Refuse to Pay**

The Conservatives have decided to play for higher stakes - a full-scale mandate through a general election to force the workers into line. The Conservatives want to cut Britain's economic losses - by reducing the cost of labor through wage limits and lay-offs and by restricting consumption of basic (imported) goods. It is a policy which suits big business and the banks at the expense of the rest of society.

The coal miners in their demand for a pay increase beyond the limits of the government's incomes policy are in fact taking a political stand. They are saying "We will not pay the price of Britain's economic problems - of an economic system based on private profits. We will not accept wage limitations of 13% which in the face of a 20% increase in the cost of living means reducing our living standards."

Whatever the outcome of the election the miners will probably get their increase. Heath will go on to more general moves against Britain's working people. His party's election manifesto is already pledged to forcing unions to pay the family allowances (now government paid) of members on strike. The miners will have fought one round and perhaps won - but another year of 20% inflation will not leave them with much of a prize. Others - those on pensions, students on grants, workers who settled for small wage hikes - will be worse off than ever.

# Women's Health & Safety

*continued from page 2*

to the fetus. Pregnancy places additional stress on all parts of a woman's body, thus making her unusually susceptible to a variety of toxic substances, such as bensene or lead which cause anemia, or pesticides, which damage the liver or kidneys. Amounts of these chemicals that may not harm men or nonpregnant women may well be unsafe for pregnant women. Prolonged sitting or standing can also create special problems for pregnant women.

Many substances found in workplaces endanger the health of the fetus and increase the chances of miscarriages or of birth defects. Just as having a chest x-ray can be harmful to the unborn baby, so any kind of radiation and perhaps even noise at the workplace can be dangerous. Likewise, chemicals such as solvents, dyes, and drugs may be hazardous; for example, anesthetic gases cause an increased frequency of miscarriages and birth defects in operating room nurses. Pregnant women who work with viruses in medical labs may get infections which can endanger the fetus.

Many people are aware of potential hazards to the pregnant woman and the fetus, because of tragedies such as the thalidomide scandal. However, the federal standards for allowable concentrations of toxic substances in the workplace do not consider effects on the pregnant worker or the fetus. Research on hazardous substances rarely includes studies on their potential for causing birth defects or miscarriages. This problem will become greater now that the Supreme Court has restricted compulsory pregnancy leave, which was the traditional "solution" to occupational hazards for pregnant women.

**What Can be Done?**

Women, like men, are organizing to exercise their rights under OSHA and to demand healthy work places. Since so little is known about health hazards during pregnancy, it is very important that women join their union safety committees and raise these issues. More research must be done so that standards which adequately protect all workers can be set.

Some workers have demanded contracts giving them the right to know the composition of the substances they work with and the hazards of these materials, including the dangers they pose to pregnant women. Contracts have also guaranteed the right to refuse dangerous work. They should specifically allow pregnant women to transfer to jobs elsewhere in the plant or office if they feel their job is threatening to their unborn child or themselves, as well as allowing them to return to their original job when they are able. A provision like this would also protect any worker with a temporary disability that may make a job particularly difficult or hazardous for some limited period of time.

# BrassTacks

*continued from page 2*

polists produce very expensive throwaways. And in a world with finite fossil fuels, the oil monopolists had not only deliberately restricted development of alternative energy sources, but for years and years had promoted the consumption of petroleum that was out-and-out wasteful. Now, while the oil companies continue to maintain their profits, we, their captive consumers, are forced to wait in long lines burning gas just to buy gas.

In short, these giant monopolies are not only no longer providing a decent service for their customers, but they have become so deformed that they now must create shortages and terrible hardships and miseries on the general public in order to maintain their profits.

Yet, bigness by itself is not the villain. Modern technology is most efficient when it is fairly large and well organized.

**How it's Used**

However, whether modern technology serves or harms mankind depends on who controls it and how it is used. Take the highly automated oil industry, for example. The oil executives had told Congress that they had to make exorbitant profits in order to be able to carry on the very expensive exploratory drillings. But the oil depreciation allowance that for years has given them vast tax write-offs has already shown that they'd rather pocket this extra money than spend it for the purpose intended.

So why should the public continue to finance the oil billionaires who care nothing for the public?

Since the public has, to a large extent, been paying for these drillings anyway, there's absolutely no reason in the world why the government itself cannot finance these drillings for the public. We would then not only be able to get ample petroleum with environmental safeguards at cheaper prices, but alternative energy sources could also be developed,

However, before this new era of sanity could be brought into being, the government must first be taken away from the big corporations who now control it. In short, in order to rationally solve our problems, America must be taken over, not by any foreign power, but by the American people.

# Eye On The Board Politicians Play Games With Board

by Andy Esposito
*Modern Times Staff*

Of the many items being discussed by the Charter Revision Commission the one having the greatest effect on the Board of Aldermen is the current debate over the future size of that body. The board is currently composed of one elected representative from each of the city's 30 wards. Proposals under consideration would vary the size of the board from 10 to 20 members; the most mentioned size being 15.

However, there is nothing magical about any of the proposed numbers. Most of the work of the board, like that of any legislative body, is done in its various committees. These committees, usually composed of four to six alderpeople, in turn report the results of their deliberations to the whole board. Therefore, it is difficult to understand why a board composed of 30 members would be more unwieldy than one made up of 10.

**Smaller Board Easier to Control**

Proponents of a smaller board, most of whom hold aldermanic leadership positions, contend that decreasing its size would increase its efficiency. In reality, it is not increased efficiency but the potential for greater control over its decisions which attracts the leadership to a smaller board.

The fewer the number of alderpeople the fewer votes needed to pass measures the leadership deems desirable. Currently 16 votes, a simple majority, are needed to pass most resolutions. If there were 15 alderpeople, the number the leadership favors, only seven votes would be needed. *Thus, the board leaders would have to* work half as hard to secure passage of their resolutions.

In addition, fewer alderpeople would result in a decrease, as far as the Democrats are concerned, in the number of "non regulars" on the board. For example, the first and second wards are represented by people whose votes the leadership doesn't have "locked-up." Obviously, a smaller board would have a higher percentage of "regulars;" thus a higher number of votes would be "locked-up."

**Challenges More Difficult**

A smaller board would mean larger wards. It stands to reason, that if the size of the board is cut in half, the new wards will be twice as large as the old. Therefore, it will become twice as difficult as at present, for a "non-machine" candidate to challenge an entrenched "machine" politician.

Also, since New Haven is largely a Democratic Party town, larger election districts would, most likely, decrease the number of Republicans on the board.

These twin possibilities; less chance of a primary challange and fewer Republican alderpeople must be a delightful prospect for the Democratic Party leadership.

**Increased Fiscal Power**

The Charter Revision Commission has been told by Aldermanic Majority Leader Edward Piazza (D-15) and Aldermanic President Vincent Mauro (D-3) that a smaller board is the key to its acquiring a larger voice in city monetary matters. However, the size of the Board of Aldermen has nothing to do with its role in fiscal policy.

Provisions can be written into any new city charter giving the board a greater say in the budget making process. The Alderpeople can have a voice whether they number 30 or 10. The critical point is that the elected representatives of the citizens of New Haven must acquire power over the city's purse strings.

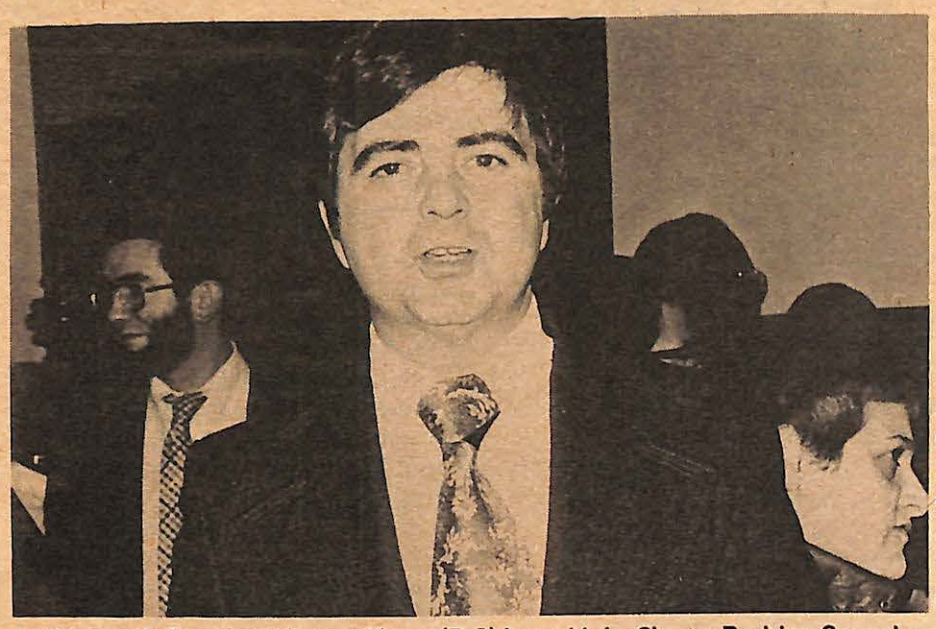


Photo by Cathy Quinn

**Aldermanic President Vincent Mauro (D-3) has told the Charter Revision Commission that a smaller Aldermanic Board is the key to its gaining power over money -- a power which it presently doesn't have. Revision of the city charter is a way to give the people control of financial policy of the city through their elected representatives, rather than through an appointive Board of Finance as is presently true.**

**Administration Power Grab**

The present size and composition of the Board of Aldermen is far from ideal. And yet, poor as the current board is, it is more desirable than one which will move power over our daily lives even farther from New Havener's hands.

What Mauro and Piazza desire is more power and less public participation in municipal government. It is for these reasons they are advocating a smaller board. Their stated reasons, increased efficiency and increased budgetry power, are smoke screens to hide their true aims.

# Labor Notes

**NLRB Judge Rips Farah's Labor Violations**

Farah Manufacturing Co. was hit by one of the strongest rebukes ever handed down in a National Labor Relations Board action for its glaring and repeated violations of federal labor law. Citing Farah's continued abuse of workers and its unlawful anti-union practices, an NLRB judge ordered the company to reinstate six workers illegally fired in 1972 and to rehire the nearly 3,000 strikers--if they want their jobs back--who went out in protest of the firings.

Judge Maloney also ordered Farah to give the ACWA access to all employes in an organizing drive and for the company to pay the NLRB and the union the costs of investigating and handling the case.

In addition to posting the NLRB decision on the plant bulletin boards, Maloney directed Farah to publish the order in newspapers for three weeks in cities where Farah has plants: San Antonio, Victoria and El Paso, Texas, and Albuquerque and Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Farah announced that it would appeal the law judge's decision to the NLRB. Maloney also ordered Farah to stop:

--Firing or discriminating against employees who presented grievances or engaged in strike activities.

--Discouraging workers from joining the ACWA or any other union.

--Harassing or coercing employes from exercising their basic rights under the labor act.

For those who went our on strike on or after May 3, 1972, Farah must offer them their jobs back within five days after the strikers submit applications.

If their jobs no longer exist, they must be offered equivalent positions, if necessary through dismissing other persons who were hired during the strike to replace them.

And upon request of the ACWA, Farah must give the union access for a full year to all plant bulletin boards and the names and addresses of all non-supervisory workers. The company must keep the list updated for a full year. Farah is also required to post the NLRB order in English and Spanish for 60 days.

**The Staff of *Modern Times* is pleased to report that Willie Farah has been broken--the strike won--our congratulations to the Farah workers and to those who stood behind them in the boycott--si, se puede!**

# School Notes
# New Resource For Ed.

by Ruth Hein

The Institute for Responsive Education, a brand-new local resource, was established by Don Davies, a former Deputy Commissioner in the U.S. Office of Education. It has two aims: to study and advocate more extensive parent and community involvement in public education; and to further aspects of participatory democracy in the school system.

Davies sees parents and other citizens as a "potential third force" besides teachers and the school bureaucracy, and he is convinced that only by giving this third force equal or greater strength will changes be possible. By "participatory democracy" he means an involvement of community people--"citizens," in his terminology--at the policy-making decision making level. Like most of us, Davies has his own preferences for certain educational methods and techniques, but he keeps these to himself; the Institute goes down the line for community participation and community decisions.

**Citizens Will Improve the Schools**

Davies founded his organization as a direct result of his work in the Office of Education. While functioning as a "bureaucrat" (again, his word), he and his colleagues were struck time and again by the fact that, with all their good intentions and in spite of all the money available to them, they were simply not able to imprive the present level of schooling. He became conviced that the amount of of citizen participation routinely used to fulfill federal guidelines for funded projects was not enough. He is now dedicated to creating stronger and more extensive involvement

One way to support citizens' skills and strengths is through a series of free public lectures. The second of these will take place on March 6 at the Dixwell Community House. Titled "Program for Joint Action: Educating Parents and teachers," it is by Ida Mae Fletcher, a long-time community organizer in Chicago. Fletcher is one of the most effective individual change agents around. The organization she started now has over 3000 dues-paying members. Working with school councils, running training sessions for parents and principals, these people have made significant improvements in their schools

***Special Public Program -- March 13***

A subsequent program, on March 13 in Conte School, is being given by Michael Clark and Myles Horton of the Highlander Center in Tennessee. This Center has worked extensively in rural poverty areas (it is now active in Appalachia), both with general social problems and specifically with education. It has been in existence about forty years, during which time it has, among other things, set up freedom schools.

Those of us who have still not given up on the idea that meaningful change in the schools can come through community involvement would do well to attend both lectures and learn from them and the subsequent discussion.

The Institute for Responsive Education is also involved in making studies of how and why community members need to proceed. One current project, under Yale auspices and in coordination with the New Haven school administration, is a survey of community attitudes toward the schools. This effort uses not only the Institute staff, but also a number of volunteers from the community (some paid, some not) as well as students.

Talking with Davies is an exhilarating experience. His energy and siscerity are absolutely convincing. While in the Office of Education, he informed himself thoroughly and made some startling proposals; for one thing, he has been a proponent of Teachers' Centers throughout the country. Now that he is in New Haven, he is working on his own to bring about some of the improvements that he was not able to implement from Washington. He has hopes of spreading out nationally, and he has a few projects going in other cities. When I asked him whether, as a foundation-funded organization, the Institute woule fade away in June, before it had a chance to make an impact, he laughed and assured me that he expects to be around for a good five years.

Obviously Don Davies has thought his mission through thoroughly and is dedicated to the cause of community involvement. The Institute can use further volunteers (787-0881). The people of New Haven can use the Institute for Responsive Education.

# Lead Poisoning Symptoms Can Be Deceptive

by Modern Times Staff
*This is Part Two of a two-part article; Part One appeared in our last issue.*

The prolonged presence of lead in the body can have a number of serious effects. For instance, chronic lead damage to the kidnies is a well established fact. Unfortunately, the time lag between the lead poisoning during childhood and the kidney failure of the adult may be as long as twenty years so that the connection between the two diseases may not be realized. Permanent injury to the brain and other parts of the nervous system is another result of an overload of lead in the body. And, when the lead level is sufficiently high, lethargy, convulsions and death can and do occur.

The symptoms of severe lead poisoning include months of fatigue, restlessness, irritability, clumsiness, and often loss of previously acquired skills. The busy physician may attribute these complaints to "the age," "a reaction to a move," "a fire," "the birth of a new sibling," or "a virus." However, if an infant or toddler who lives in an old house and who puts foreign objects in his mouth shows these symptoms, he or she should be taken to a physician.

An overdose of lead may have other results. It is Dr. Morris Wessel's opinion "that vast numbers of children who present restlessness, hyperactivity, short attention span, can't sit still or concentrate in school and find it hard to learn to read, may be the children who have experienced unrecognized lead poisoning during infancy and toddler years when the growing brain is unusually susceptible to toxic substances."

Medical research is still uncovering more far-reaching effects of lead on the body. Recent studies in Finland suggest that lead interferes with the bodies capacity to fight infections. Researchers at Dartmouth Medical School are finding evidence that elevated lead levels in animal mothers during pregnancy can have damaging effects on the brains of their babies.

Lead levels that do not cause serious disease in an adult make children sick because their bodies are so much smaller and so less able to counteract the lead.

Lead poisoning is a social, community problem with causes and cures well known. It puts a great burden of suffering on the children effected and their families. It also places a burden on the community to care for these children with schools and doctors. Would it not be less costly and healthier for all of us if we would put an end to the conditions that allow children access to poisonous lead?

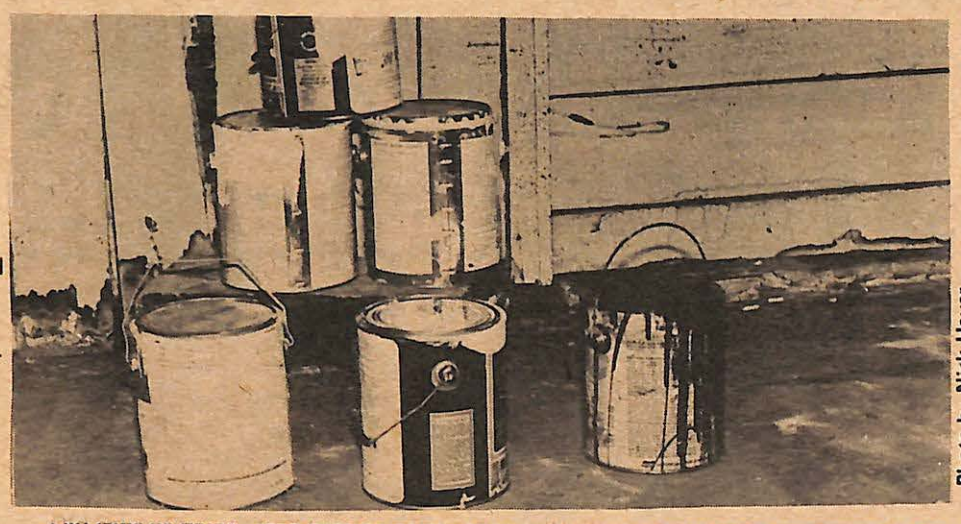


Photo by Nick Heyer

**Old cans of paint - lead bearing paint - that still exists on the walls, windowsills, and other accessible parts of New Haven's Hill Section and other depressed areas. In the opinion of noted Pediatrician Dr. Morris Wessel, ".....vast numbers of children who present restlessness, .....short attention span, .....can't concentrate in school..... may be the children who have experienced unrecognized lead poisoning during infancy....."**

# CoMart Way Is Cheaper

**Bob Aaronson**

A group of New Haveners have decided that in the area of purchasing food, enough is enough. This group is the board of directors and officers of CoMart Inc. Their innovation is a new and cheaper way of buying food.

"The CoMart approach is a different approach; it's like a co-op, but different," Robert Forbes, the Executive Director of CoMart Inc., explained. The grocery store or CoMart will supply a shopper with everything that is available in any *supermarket, but at a considerable price* reduction.

The lifetime membership fee of $15 plus $1.25 per week will enable the store to finance its operations and pay salaries for workers. For this fee a member will be able to purchase their groceries at wholesale prices plus seven percent. This seven percent will go to the replenishing of supply.

Stated simply, if you spend $48.60 a week, for instance, for food at your local supermarket, at CoMart you would pay $44.05 and save $236 in the course of a year. And this includes the $1.25 weekly charge. Where chain supermarkets mark up items from 18.5 percent for groceries to 30 percent for health and beauty aids, CoMart's mark up is only seven percent across the board.

**Will Open Soon**

The CoMart plan differs from a co-op in that only members can shop at the store and there is no year-end refund. Any money left over at the end of the week, month, or year will be applied to the lowering of food costs although the projected budget forsees no profit. Each member of CoMart is entitled to one vote if any questions about the operation arise.

The only stumbling block that is postponing the opening of the first store, which will be in Hamden, is that the board has not abeen able to locate a building to lease. Once this is done, though, they expect a flood of calls for membership.

Mr. Forbes stressed the fact that membership is limited to approximately 1,200 families and that 250 members have already signed up. The original member limit was 4,000 but the size of the proposed store will not be able to accommodate more than 1,200. If for any reason the plan fails to materialize the membership fee will be returned in full.

**Successful in Canada**

Skeptics only have to look to Canada where forty successful "direct charge" cooperatives have been in existence since 1964. Weekly fees there range as high as $2.50. Unfortunately, Forbes does not foresee CoMart as the answer to the high price of food in the ghettos and low income areas of New Haven and vicinity.

From what he has observed in Canada, he feels that the poor residents of these areas will be reluctant to participate even though, for people with food stamps, the savings would be enormous. "They can't get past the $1.25 a week," he said.

# W. Haven Consumers Hit U.I. Overcharges

by Modern Times Staff

January 29th was the type of cold, dank winter evening people usually refuse to venture out of doors. Yet, over 350 West Havener's crowded into a small room in that city's municipal hall. What brought them together was the initial meeting of the Consumers Protest Committee; called to discuss tactics for dealing with the obscenely high United Illuminating (UI) charges for electrical service.

The committee issued a demand calling for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to roll back the rates UI charges its customers. Also, suspicion was voiced, by people in attendance, that the PUC wasn't concerned with public welfare but rather with UI's profits. The group demanded: "That area representatives investigate the PUC's records and review its actions in the case."

**PUC Ducks Meeting**

PUC Chairperson Howard Hausman refused to attend the meeting. However, in a telephone conversation with Eileen Hill, one of the groups founders, he defended UI's right to a fuel cost adjustment. Hausman told Ms. Hill: "Your quarrel isn't with UI but with the Arabs." Ms. Hill found it difficult to believe "that the Chairperson of the PUC did not know that most of UI's oil comes from Venezuela."

The committee agreed to circulate a petition calling for: reduced fuel charges, the elimination of the sales tax on utility bills, and no further rate increases for UI. Copies of the signed petitions were sent to the State Senate Finance Committee which is currently debating a bill to repeal the sales tax on utility bills. The measure is given a good chance of passage.

**Further Positive Actions**

Volunteers continue to circulate petitions. As of February 20th in excess of 6,000 signatures have been collected.

Committee members have also agreed to withold the fuel adjustment portion of their February bills until action on their demands is taken. Although it is difficult to know exactly how many people are using this tactic, it is evident that the battle has been joined.

**UI Harassment Cited**

Protest leader Hill, who lives in a "total electric" home, received a notice from UI's computer the other day. The computer informed Ms. Hill that her power would be turned off because of the non-payment of a $25.08 fuel cost adjustment charge.

However, the harassed Ms. Hill is not alone. Similar protest groups are springing up in the Greater New Haven Area. Groups in North Haven and East Haven have formed and are actively circulating petitions similar to West Haven's

Because of prodding from consumer groups, the State Legislative Banking and Regulated Activities Committee will hold a public hearing at West Haven High School on March 11th at 8:00 PM. All interested area residents are urged to attend.

## MONEY TALKS

*continued from page 3*

short report to come to any great conclusions, but at least it is fair to say that organizing the unorganized, and unifying the union movement are two important items on the agenda of the U.S. labor movement. In future reports, "politics and unions" and "inside the unions" will be topics for reports on the "State of the Unions."

*The editors of* **Modern Times** *apologize for incorrectly stating in a caption accompanying a photo story that 1,000 people attended an anti-rape rally at Southern Connecticut State College to protest the occurence of 22 rapes on campus. Actually, the number of rapes involved is five, and the number of people who attended the rally was approximately 150.*

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An American union poster from the turn of the century

# On The Job

# Union Stirs Cocktail Waitress at the Plaza

By Deane Germe
*as told to Debbie Anderson of the Modern Times Staff*

I've worked at the Park Plaza for seven years. I am a cocktail waitress at the Top of the Park. My job is really enjoyable, largely because I am in constant contact with people. I really love to meet new people. Once in a while, someone from the Shubert, or a New York Giant, will stop by. As a sideline of my job, I am also active in our union (Local 217, Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, AFL-CIO) as a steward.

A good waitress must know where everything belongs when serving. Otherwise she would have to interrupt all the time to ask: "Who gets this? Who gets that?" Ordering and serving twenty drinks at a time is no problem, if you are good! It can be difficult not to lose your temper if people are rude or drunk, however, but even that is a challenge. I have to be able to change their attitudes by the time they leave here. Working with people like I do is a real education. Common sense is a necessity. But I have no complaints about most of the customers, even those arriving in a bad mood. Even if they aren't satisfied by the food or drinks, if you cater to them they've got to leave satisfied. Waitresses can often be the hardest people to wait on. The way I look at it is if it were me sitting there, how would I want to be treated?

**Stands by the Union**

I find it important to have other people respect you and to treat others with respect. Oddly enough, it isn't my customers but the management that gives us the hardest time and least respect. I'll tell you this much, that's one reason I believe so strongly in the Union. Working under constant pressure can really make it miserable. They will try and make you do jobs that are not in your classification too. That's not fair to us and it means we are taking jobs away from other workers. I feel that any manager who gives their help a hard time does not deserve good employees.

Another good thing about the Union is that we don't have to pay for food, uniforms, breakage or even people who walk out without paying. In a non-union place those things are all deducted from your pay. One girl here paid for a walkout and I told her never to do it again. Our contract protects us from that and as steward I have to know the contract and also what I am talking about. Management will try to get away with just about anything if they think they can get away with it.

I've been in the Union since I started here. In fact, I doubt if I could stand the things you must put up with in an unorganized place. Better yet, I doubt if a non-union place would take me.

A year after I began, I became a Union steward. Sometimes management doesn't seem to realize that the grievances I handle aren't all mine. I represent other people, so I'm a thorn in their side. They've harassed me in attempts to make me quit, but fortunately I have the Union, which won't let them get away with anything. Neither will I, when I represent someone else.

**Tips Work Both Ways**

Something that really annoys me is the gratuity deduction (employers are allowed to pay tipped employees fifty cents less an hour on the assumption that *it will be made up in tips). No restaurant* should be able to take that money out of our pay. They haven't earned it, don't deserve it, and the cost of living is already too high. For those like myself, who have children to support, that is especially true. People don't realize that a large segment of waitresses are self-supporting, and many have dependents.

That's another thing that the Union has done for us. We receive excellent health insurance for ourselves and our dependents at no cost to ourselves. Also, since tips are my main income, when I have a paid vacation I receive pay at time and a half. These things we fought hard for in negotiations, and are examples of why it is important to stick to the Union.

Deane Germe, a cocktail waitress at the Park Plaza

There are few things about my job that I don't really like. I work nights, so I don't get much time to spend with my son or my friends. I end up serving at functions rather than being served. The abuses that waitresses must take from some men is aggravating. Almost every night there's someone, and they must be handled diplomatically. Experience is the only teacher for that.

Another bad part is when someone stiffs you, leaves without tipping. Anyone who does that should be ashamed of themselves. I never forget those people, but if they come back I am always very polite. Otherwise I would be putting myself on their level. I'd love to hear a good reason for stiffing, because for the life of me I can't think of any.

**Never a Dull Moment**

There's never a dull moment when I'm at work. It's nice when my regulars come in to see me. It's also gratifying to be a Union steward. After working around people for a while you get to know how to handle them well. For example, it's important to let people know you like them from the moment they arrive. That way they are more receptive to good service and it's even easier to bring some of them out of their bad moods. The trick is to smile, laugh and be jolly—even if you want to kill some of them.

I have one favorite couple. They are both in their eighties and always stop by when they're in town. They drink nothing but ginger ale and dance every single fast dance. They are great! They put some of the younsters to shame.

Being a coktail waitress is one of the most demanding jobs, both physically and mentally, that I can think of. I am on my feet constantly and loaded trays can be quite heavy. Because I'm dealing with people who are drinking, I have to be on my toes mentally—to know what I'm serving, to whom, and to handle the situation if it gets rowdy. I have to assert my independence of customers without being aloof or unfriendly. If you maintain respectability, you'll get respect. I know I do!

Overall I'd say that my job is a good one. Working with people of all kinds is interesting and rewarding, and working within the Union has been personally gratifying.

**Rosenberg Son to Speak at Temple**

On Friday, March 29, Michael Miropel, son of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg who were executed for "passing atom bomb secrets", will appear at Temple Mishkan Israel, Ridge Road, Hamden. The service preceding his appearance begins at 8 pm, and is open to the public.

**Lonely Prisoner Needs Correspondents**

W/M Minister, age 22, presently political prisoner at London Prison Farm desires correspondence *with anyone.* Am lonely and need friends. Rev. Perry Stebelton no. 136779, P.O. Box 69, London, Ohio 43140.

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